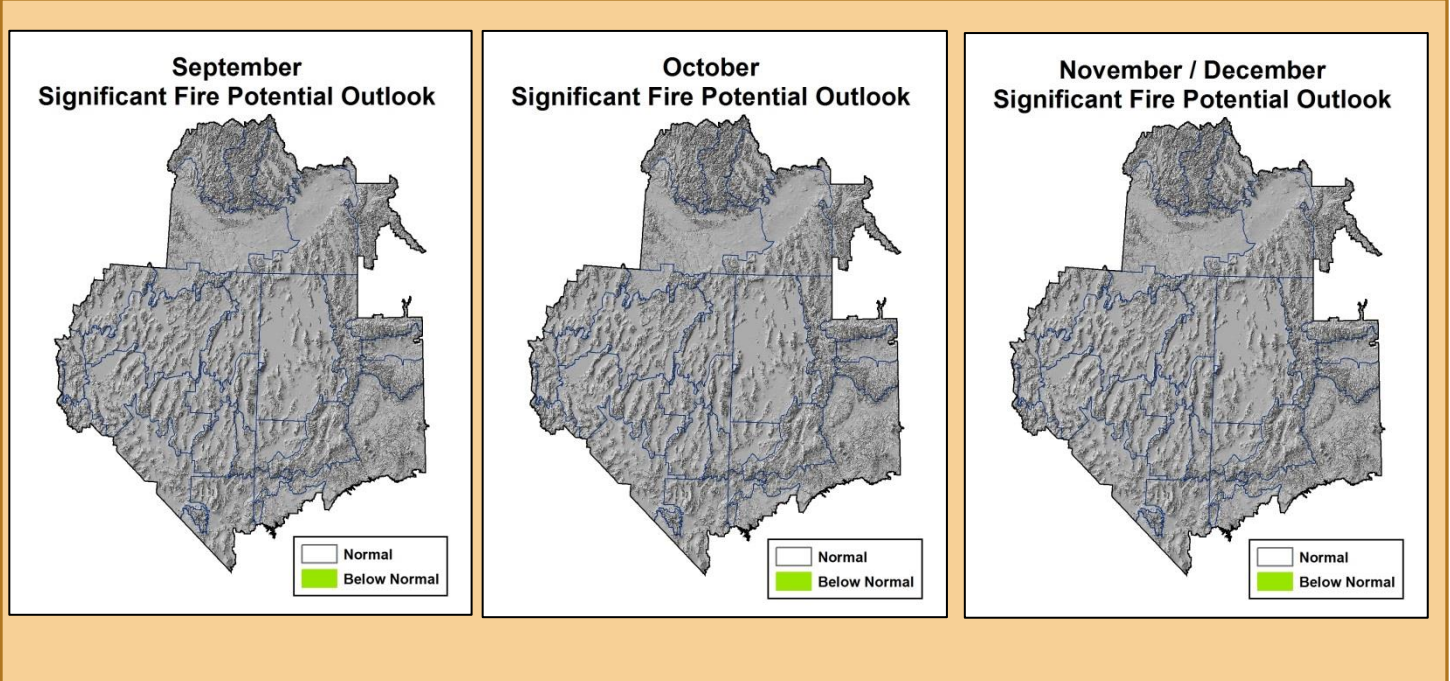


# Great Basin Monthly/Seasonal Outlook

Issued: September 1, 2015

Valid: September - December



## RECENT WEATHER / DROUGHT / FUELS DISCUSSION:

Average temperatures over the last 30 days were 2-4 degrees below normal over the northern and eastern half of the Great Basin and near normal across the rest of the region. Precipitation over the last 30 days has been 150-400% of normal over parts of the southern half of ID into northern UT/northern/western NV, however much of this precipitation occurred in the first half of August. Rainfall over the recent 3 months has significantly increased precipitation amounts for the water year across the Great Basin. However, precipitation since October 1, 2014, the start of the water year still remains just below normal across most of the GB, with the exceptions being southern and eastern UT and over western NV where precipitation increased to above normal.

Extreme to exceptional drought continues over western NV and the Sierra with extreme drought into southwest ID and the far west central ID mountains. Moderate to severe drought exists over the rest of NV, ID and the western 2/3 of UT, with abnormally dry conditions further east. The drought conditions are expected to persist through the end of November 2015 across most of ID/NV, with some improvement likely over far eastern/southern NV into UT.

## **WEATHER OUTLOOK / FUELS DISCUSSION:**

The extended weather outlook points toward mostly dry and breezy conditions throughout the first half of September as low pressure troughs become more established along the west coast. Temperatures will still likely remain near to just above normal overall through September and even into October; however there will be some cooler periods with light amounts of precipitation possible depending on the tracks of the low pressure troughs, especially during October over western/northern NV into ID. The ENSO is still in a weak El Nino, with these conditions expected to continue through the outlook period. This would support the potential for wetter conditions over especially far southern and southeast areas of the Great Basin later in the outlook period, with lesser confidence in any wet conditions for western and northern areas.

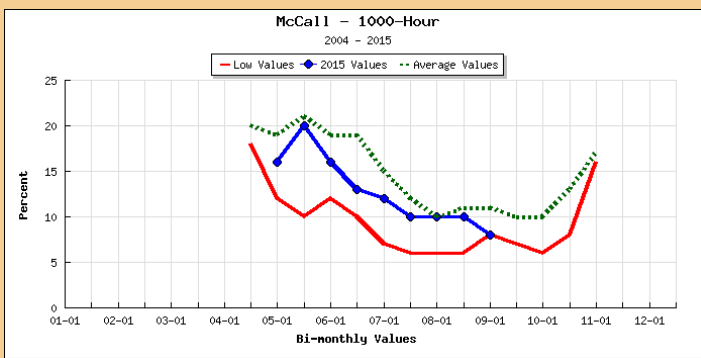
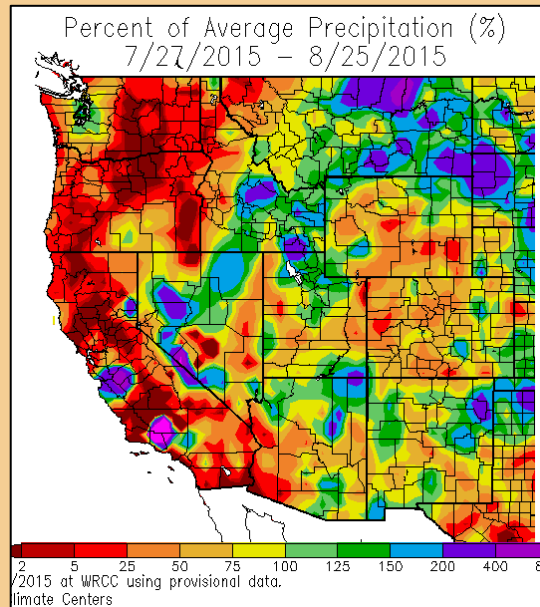
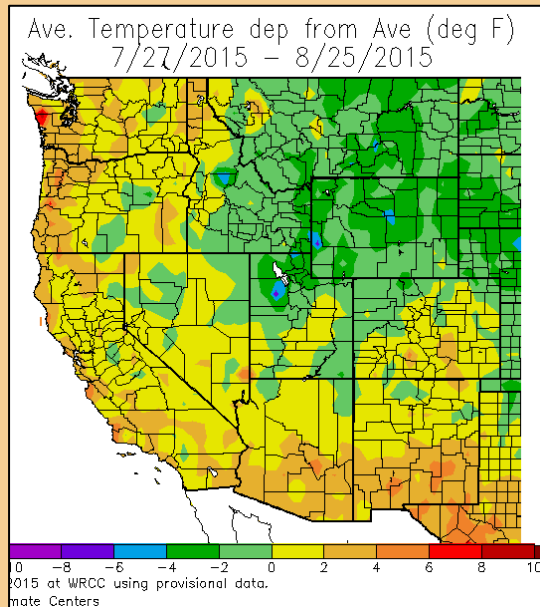
Fuels are cured with fire danger indices near to above normal regionwide, with the most critical fuel conditions over the central/west central ID mountains and into parts of the northern half of NV. Sagebrush live fuel moisture has still been decreasing to near to below normal across the Great Basin due to drier weather in recent weeks. PJ/timber fuel moisture remains below normal in many areas of the Great Basin. Fuel loading is near to below normal across the southern half of NV and into parts of western UT, with near or above normal fuel loading across the rest of the Great Basin. Therefore the main concerns are in the PJ/timber areas where fuel moisture is still low and fuel loading is higher, especially across the ID mountains, and in the lower elevation grasses of ID/northern and western NV, and the Sierra Front where the fuels are still very dry. Dry air and breezy winds through parts of early September will likely keep fuel moisture low throughout the month in many areas, despite any decreases at times in temperature as troughs move through the region.

## **FIRE SEASON TIMING / FIRE POTENTIAL DISCUSSION:**

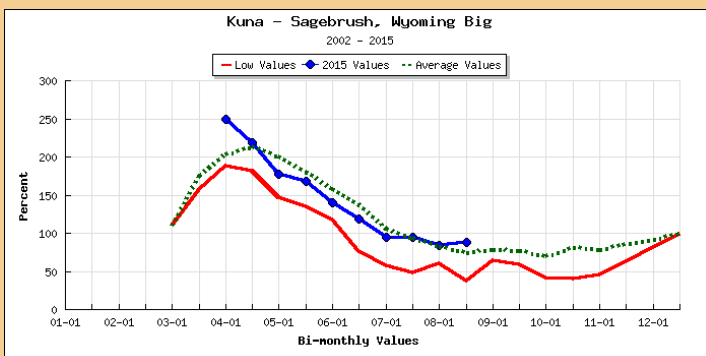
The fire season typically begins to wind down in September, with very little fire activity from October through November across the Great Basin. However, in September the expected periods of warm and dry conditions and periods of stronger winds may increase fire potential at times in the timber fuels and in areas that have an above normal grass crop. If the warm/dry conditions in September were to extend for longer periods in September, the fire season could extend or re-emerge through the month. The areas of slightly elevated concern are over western/northern NV and possibly over eastern UT in the areas of higher grass crops, and in the timber areas of the Sierra and the west central and central ID mountains. These areas could see localized above normal fire activity in September if there are ignitions after warm/dry periods and if followed by wind. Otherwise, the fire season would gradually come to an end likely by October due to cooler nights and shorter days along with increasing moisture later in the fall.

Fuels will begin September very dry across the Great Basin, despite some moisture toward the end of August. Due to expected dry/breezy conditions frequently through September, fire potential may remain slightly elevated at times if those periods are followed by wind or lightning, assuming there are ignitions. Confidence is still low on the amount of drying/warmth in September, along with any triggering events. Otherwise, the fire season would gradually wind down October through December due to cooler nights, shorter days and increasing chances for precipitation later in October/November.

### Temperature / Precipitation 30 Day Anomalies

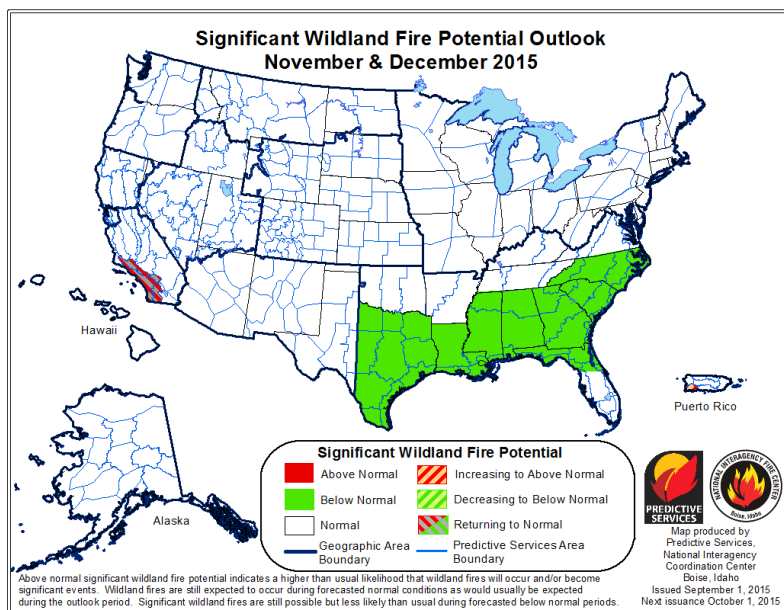
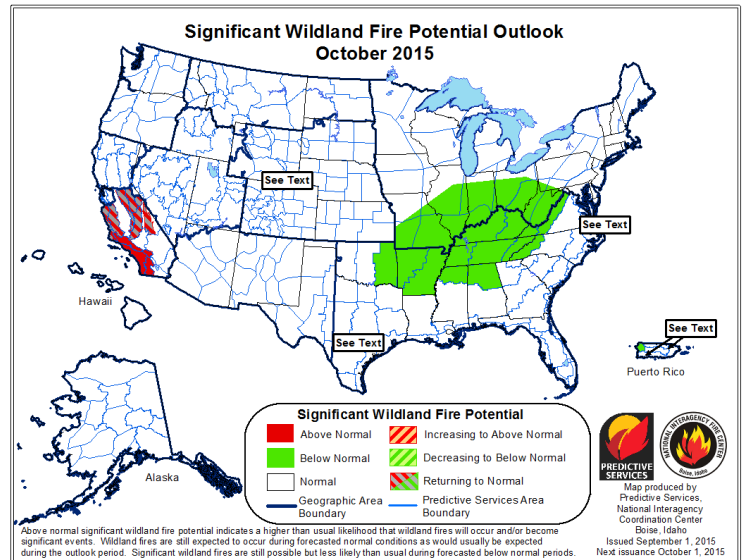
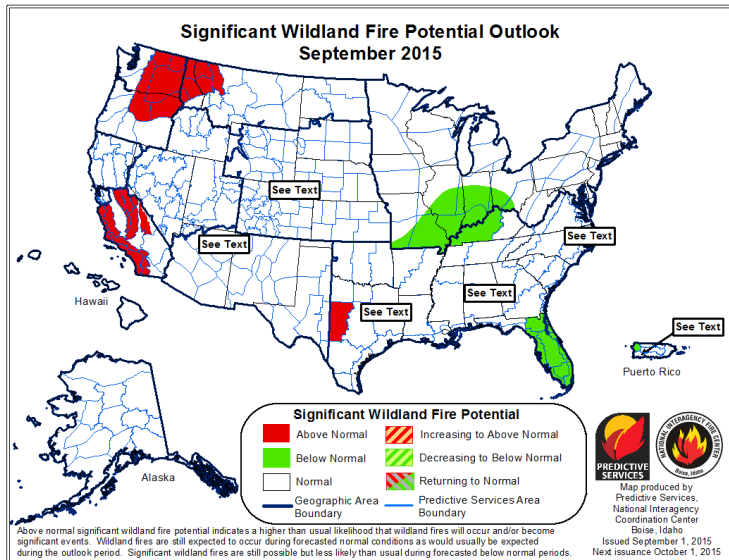


1000 Hr Dead Fuel Moisture  
(West Central Idaho)



Sagebrush Live Fuel Moisture  
(Southwest Idaho)

## NATIONAL OUTLOOKS:



### Additional Information:

- National Outlook text:

[http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly\\_seasonal\\_outlook.pdf](http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf)

- Live Fuel Moisture website:

[http://www.wfas.net/nfmd/public/gacc\\_map.php?gacc=EGBC](http://www.wfas.net/nfmd/public/gacc_map.php?gacc=EGBC)

- Energy Release Component(ERC) Charts

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/predictive/ffp\\_charts/ffp-erc.html](http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/predictive/ffp_charts/ffp-erc.html)